



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

**Southern Forest
Experiment Station**

New Orleans,
Louisiana

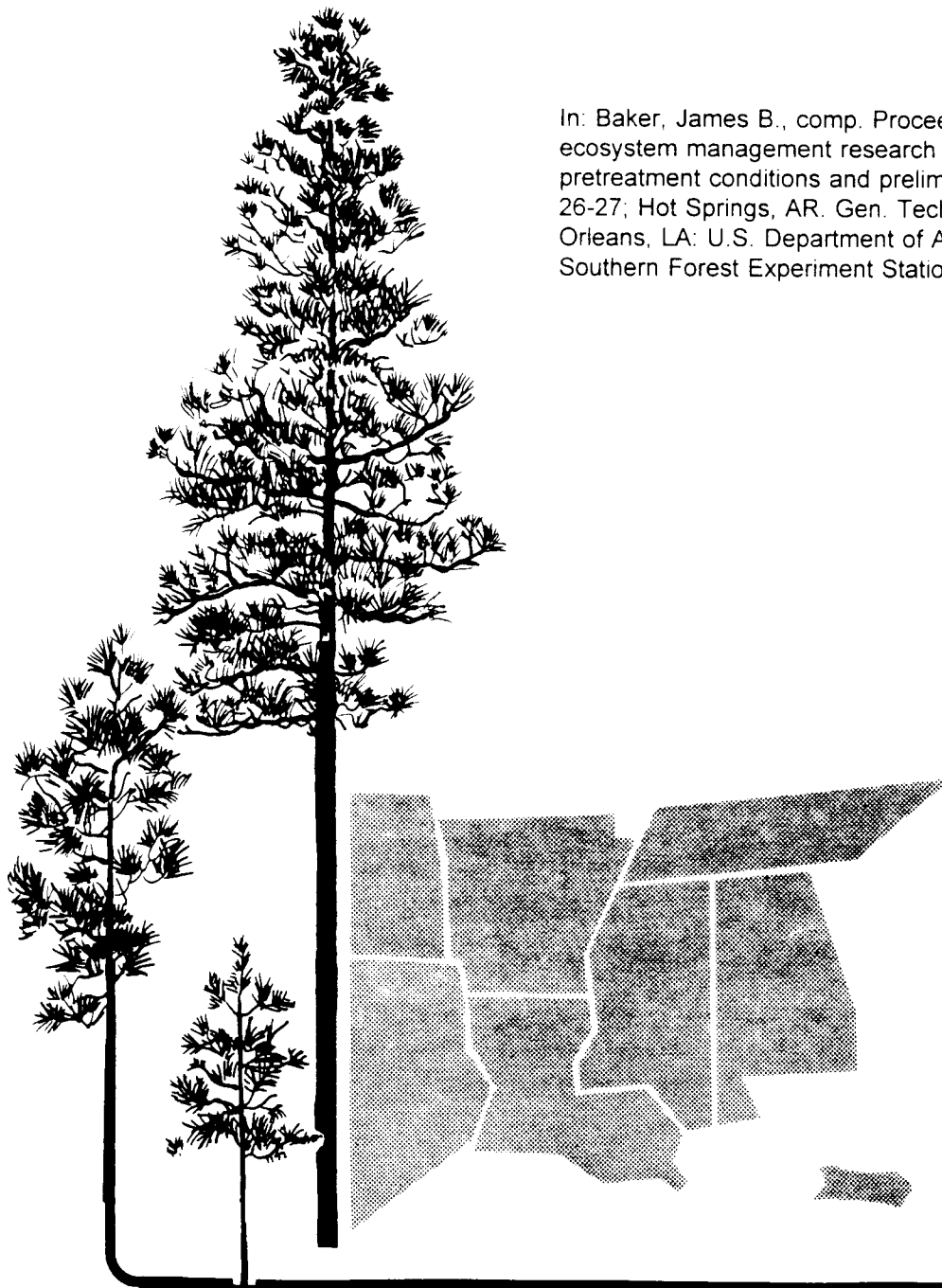
Proceedings Reprint



**BREEDING BIRDS OF LATE-ROTATION PINE HARDWOOD
STANDS: COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS AND
SIMILARITY TO OTHER REGIONAL PINE FORESTS**

Petit, Daniel R.; Petit, Lisa J.; Martin, Thomas E.; [and others]

In: Baker, James B., comp. Proceedings of the symposium on ecosystem management research in the Ouachita Mountains: pretreatment conditions and preliminary findings, 1993 October 26-27; Hot Springs, AR. Gen. Tech. Rep. SO-112. New Orleans, LA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station: 103-116.



**Southern
Forest
Experiment
Station**

1994

**Breeding Birds of Late-Rotation Pine-Hardwood Stands:
Community Characteristics and Similarity to Other Regional Pine Forests¹**

Daniel R. Petit, Lisa J. Petit, Thomas E. Martin, Ronald E. Thill, and James F. Taulman²

ABSTRACT

The relative abundances of bird species and the ecological characteristics of the overall avian community were quantified within 20 late-rotation pine-hardwood sites in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma during 1992 and 1993. In addition, similarities in species composition and guild representation were compared with those of forest types in other areas of the Southeastern United States to assess the possible extent of generalizations to be made from this Ecosystem Management research. A total of 55 bird species was recorded within survey plots during 1992 and 1993, but only 10 species accounted for more than 80 percent of all individuals detected. Pine warblers comprised approximately 40 percent of all individuals. Rank abundances of the 55 species were relatively consistent between years, especially for the most common species. Numbers of species and individuals detected during point count surveys were different between 1992 and 1993, although some of that discrepancy may be due to interobserver variation. No significant differences were detected in bird species richness, abundance, or diversity among the four geographic zones or among future harvesting treatments. Bird communities were dominated by species that nest and forage in the canopy. Similarity was relatively low between bird assemblages characterized on the Ouachita Mountain sites and assemblages in other studies. Representation of nesting and foraging guilds, however, was more closely aligned with guild structure found in other forests. In general, results from Ecosystem Management Research should be most applicable to loblolly-shortleaf pine and oak-hickory forest types in the Southeast.

INTRODUCTION

The Ecosystem Management Research Program of the USDA Forest Service was designed to assess the effects of traditional and nontraditional cutting and regeneration techniques on the flora, fauna, ecosystem function, and esthetic and cultural properties of our national forests as well as the economic costs associated with each harvesting program. The philosophy behind the ecosystem-level approach to managing federal lands is based on the perception that to serve the long-term, multiple interests of society, preservation of biodiversity and sustainability of natural resources must be viewed in a holistic fashion (Salwasser 1991, 1992). This "new perspective" suggests that neither societal (monetary and cultural) considerations nor ecosystem integrity (including sustainability) can be viewed independently of the other, and that management units must be viewed simply as components within the scope of larger-scale watershed processes and functions. The interactions of these complex, and often controversial, issues (e.g., Frissell and others 1992) are being investigated in a series of demonstration projects within National Forests.

¹ Paper presented at the Symposium on Ecosystem Management Research in the Ouachita Mountains: Pretreatment Conditions and Preliminary Findings, Hot Springs, AR, October 26-27, 1993.

² Research Associate, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; Currently Research Fellow, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD 21037; Research Associate, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; Currently Research Wildlife Biologist, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, National Zoological Park, Washington, DC 20008; Assistant Leader, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; Currently Assistant Leader, National Biological Survey, Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana at Missoula, 59812; Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962; Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Hot Springs, AR. Currently Ph.D. Candidate, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, 72701.

Ecosystem Management Research in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma is comprised of three phases: Phase I provided a demonstration of the logistical aspects and feasibility of different harvesting treatments. Phase II and Phase III are designed to assess the economic effectiveness of different harvesting treatments as well as treatment effects on the biological, chemical, physical, and esthetic properties of pine-hardwood ecosystems at the stand and watershed levels, respectively (Baker, this volume).

Natural pine forests and pine plantations often support fewer species of birds compared with mature deciduous stands in the Southeastern United States (Hamel 1992, Smith and Petit 1988). Mixed pine-hardwood forests, on the other hand, often equal or exceed pure hardwood forest types in species richness (Dickson and others 1980, Hamel 1992, Meyers and Johnson 1978). Yet, both pine and mixed-pine forest types represent critical habitats for economically and socially important game birds, declining neotropical migratory bird populations, and threatened/endangered species (Evans 1978, Hamel 1992, Jackson 1988). The value of pine-associated habitats to bird and wildlife populations, coupled with increasing demands on these lands for timber production and urban development (Jackson 1988, Knight 1987), has created an urgency among wildlife biologists to better understand bird-habitat relationships and the impact of different management practices on bird populations in the Southeast (Childers and others 1986, Harris and others 1974, Johnson 1987, Noble and Hamilton 1975). Critical in this research is documentation of bird species that are associated with mature, naturally regenerated pine forests, "controls" against which to compare different stand ages and management techniques.

This report summarizes information on the relative abundances and community characteristics of breeding birds associated with late-rotational pine-hardwood forests before stand-level ecosystem management harvesting treatments were applied (Phase II). Bird assemblages occupying these sites were compared with assemblages inhabiting mature pine and pine-hardwood stands in other areas of the Southeastern United States. The degree of similarity among the different regional bird communities allowed projection of the generality of the harvesting treatments on Southeastern pine/pine-hardwood bird communities.

METHODS

Study Sites

In 1991, nine late-rotation pine-hardwood stands were selected in the Ouachita (7) and Ozark (2) National Forests of northwestern Arkansas (table 1) to establish bird and vegetation sampling protocols to be used once Phase II treatment plots were selected (see below). (At that time, these sites were targeted to represent pretreatment controls. However, timing of Phase II timber harvesting allowed pretreatment data to be collected within the actual 20 Phase II sites. Consequently, these nine sites provided only supplemental information on late-rotation pine-hardwood bird assemblages.) South-facing slopes (including southeast and southwest) predominated on most sites. Stands had not been harvested for 75 to 90 years, and pine and hardwood basal areas averaged approximately 7.7 m²/ha (range: 7.0 to 8.1 m²/ha) and 3.8 m²/ha (range: 2.5 to 4.3 m²/ha), respectively. Canopies were largely closed (percent canopy cover, mean = 84 percent; range = 79 to 88 percent, N = 9), with mean canopy heights between 15 and 23 m (overall mean = 18 m). Most sites had well-developed understories and midstories comprised mainly of *Vaccinium corymbosum* L., *Cornus florida* L., *Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh., *Quercus marilandica* Muenchh., and *Q. stellata* Wangenh. *Quercus velutina* Lam., *Q. rubra* L., *Carya* spp., and *Pinus echinata* Mill. were the primary overstory trees. All sites encompassed 16 to 25 ha.

In 1992 and 1993, bird surveys were conducted on 20 additional sites on which 5 different Phase II harvesting treatments were to be applied during summer and autumn 1993. All stands had predominantly south-facing aspects (including southwest and southeast) with slopes that ranged between 0 to 15 percent. Stand age (> 70 years), vegetative structure (mean canopy cover = 82 percent, range = 78 to 87 percent; mean canopy height = 17 m, range = 15 to 20 m), and tree species composition were similar to the late-rotational tracts studied in 1991 (Thill and others [this volume] provide additional details of sites used in 1992 and 1993). The 20 Phase II sites were loosely grouped (based upon possible edaphic and climatic differences [Baker, this volume]) into four geographic zones (five stands per zone) primarily in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma, but several sites were located in the southernmost district of the Ozark National Forest (table 1). Each group of five sites included one replicate of each of the four harvesting treatments (clearcutting, shelterwood, group selection, and single tree selection) that were to be performed in 1993, in addition to an untreated control site (Thill and others, this volume). All sites were 14 to 16 ha.

Table 1.— *Locations of late-rotation pine-hardwood stands studied in 1991-93 in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma*

Year	National Forest	Zone*	Compartment	Stand
1991	Ozark	—	2	25
	Ozark	—	2	16
	Ouachita	—	1601	11
	Ouachita	—	1610	11
	Ouachita	—	1614	24
	Ouachita	—	603	17
	Ouachita	—	1457	ACEF†
	Ouachita	—	473	11
	Ouachita	—	462	11
1992-93	Ouachita	North	458	16
	Ouachita	North	457	12
	Ozark	North	46	18
	Ozark	North	70	10
	Ouachita	North	284	11
	Ouachita	East	1067	15
	Ouachita	East	1119	21
	Ouachita	East	1124	11
	Ouachita	East	609	9
	Ouachita	East	605	5
	Ouachita	South	1658	5
	Ouachita	South	27	1
	Ouachita	South	35	42
	Ouachita	South	1649	13
	Ouachita	South	23	10
	Ouachita	West	1292	2
	Ouachita	West	833	1
	Ouachita	West	62	6
	Ouachita	West	248	17
	Ouachita	West	896	7

* Geographic zone used in the Ecosystem Management experimental design. No designation of zone is appropriate for preliminary data collected on the nine sites in 1991.

† Alum Creek Experimental Forest.

Bird Surveys

Bird abundance was estimated in five or six (depending on size of the site) 40-m radius (0.5 ha) circular plots spaced evenly over each site. Bird survey plots (hereafter "plots") were usually more than 150 m apart, but size or shape of some stands permitted only 130 to 150 m of separation. Plots were more than 90 m away from edges (e.g., roads, younger successional growth, different forest types). On 3 different days (= 3 visits) between 5 to 24 May 1991, 28 April to 2 June 1992 (75 percent of surveys completed before 15 May), and 1 to 14 May 1993, all birds seen or heard within plots on each site were recorded. Ten minutes were spent at each plot. Individuals detected beyond 40 m, but within the site boundaries were also noted. Birds seen flying or soaring above canopy trees and species that do not breed in the region (transients) were excluded. Surveys were conducted between 06:00 and 12:00 (> 90 percent were completed before 11:00) on days without strong winds or prolonged precipitation. (On several days, surveys were continued when light rainfall began after initiation of bird counts on a site.) Bird surveys were conducted by four observers in 1991, three in 1992, and three in 1993. Only one observer (Taulman) surveyed birds during all 3 years. With the exception of Taulman, the bird censusers in 1992 were different from those in 1993.

Guild Analysis

Species were grouped into the following foraging and nesting guilds to examine the relative contributions of these groups to the overall bird community inhabiting late-rotation pine-hardwood stands: (1) open-cup, canopy (> 3 m); (2) open-cup, shrub (< 3 m); (3) ground; (4) cavity; and (5) other (e.g., rock faces). Foraging/trophic guilds were based on breeding season diets/foraging tactics and designated as either: (1) foliage-gleaning insectivore, canopy (> 3 m); (2) foliage-gleaning insectivore, shrub (< 3 m); (3) ground-foraging insectivore; (4) aerial flycatcher; (5) bark insectivore; (6) carnivore; (7) granivore; (8) nectarivore; and (9) omnivore. Classifications were based upon Ehrlich and others (1988) and Hamel (1992).

Breeding bird community composition on sites in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests was compared with that of 12 other studies conducted within mature (> 40 years) pine-associated forest types in the Southeastern United States. Raptors and waterbirds were not included in this analysis because populations are not easily quantified using fixed-radius point counts (e.g., raptors); presence of a species on a given site may be highly dependent upon water (e.g., waterfowl); and many studies reported only terrestrial landbirds. Similarity in bird community composition was calculated by Sorensen's Index (SI): $200C/(A + B)$, where A = number of species in forest type A, B = number of species in forest type B, and C = number of species shared between two forests (Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974). Sorensen's Index can range from 0 percent (no species in common) to 100 percent (identical species composition).

Similarity indices may not accurately reflect the actual overlap in species composition in two areas because species assemblages quantified at local levels may be strongly influenced by the intensity of sampling (e.g., number of sites, number of years). Hamel (1992) presented complete bird species lists for different forest types in the Southeastern United States. Those data were used to provide some indication of the "potential" similarity in bird community composition between mature mixed-pine hardwood stands (forest type represented by Ouachita and Ozark National Forest research) and six other forest types in the Southeast: loblolly-shortleaf pine (*Pinus taeda* L.-*P. echinata*), Virginia-pitch pine (*P. virginiana* Mill.-*P. rigida* L.), longleaf-slash pine (*P. palustris* Mill.-*P. elliotii* Engelm.), sandhills longleaf pine, longleaf pine-scrub oak (*Quercus* spp.), and oak-hickory (*Carya* spp.). Similarity indices were calculated as described above.

Data Analysis

The bird survey technique allowed calculation of an index of density for each species rather than a measure of absolute density. Relative abundance of each species on a site was presented as the average number of individuals detected per survey point (based upon three visits). Species richness was based upon: (1) only those individuals detected within survey plots on each of the 20 sites (S_p); and (2) all species detected on the site, i.e., both within and outside survey plots (S_s). The Shannon-Weiner diversity index (H') was calculated as $H' = - \sum p_i \ln p_i$, where p_i was the proportion of all individuals detected that were represented by species i (Pielou 1969). Data from 1992 and 1993 were analyzed separately because of between-year differences in species richness and abundance (see below). Comparisons of bird community metrics (i.e., abundance, diversity, richness) across future treatments and geographic zones were made with two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Only the main effects model for each bird community metric was reported here because no interactions existed among the factors (Neter and Wasserman 1974, p. 582). Other statistical tests are included in the text. Differences were considered to be significant if $P \leq 0.05$.

RESULTS

Adequacy of Bird Sampling Effort

Thoroughness of bird surveys is difficult to assess without extraordinary effort (e.g., by spot-mapping) to determine all species breeding on sites and their relative densities. However, when estimating species richness, for example, adequate sampling intensity can be achieved when species-effort curves become asymptotic. Bird surveys in 1991 demonstrated that, on average, one visit to a site (cumulative sum from all plots on a site during a given day) detected nearly three-fourths of the species, and that two visits registered more than 90 percent of the species recorded within survey plots after three visits. Data from 1992 and 1993 revealed species-effort curves similar to those found in 1991, especially for results after two visits (fig. 1).

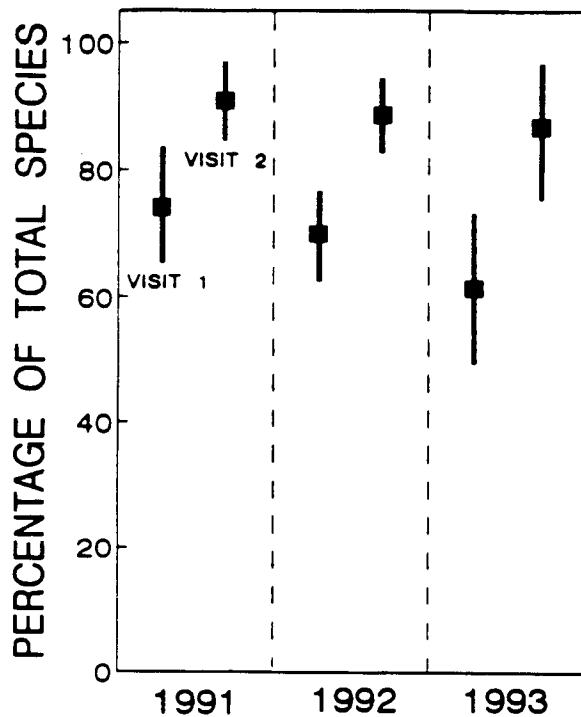


Figure 1.— Effect of number of visits on estimates of species richness during 1991-93. Squares represent the mean percentage of species detected after one and two visits compared with the total number of species recorded after three visits ($N = 9$ sites in 1991, and 20 sites in 1992 and 1993). Vertical bars represent one standard deviation.

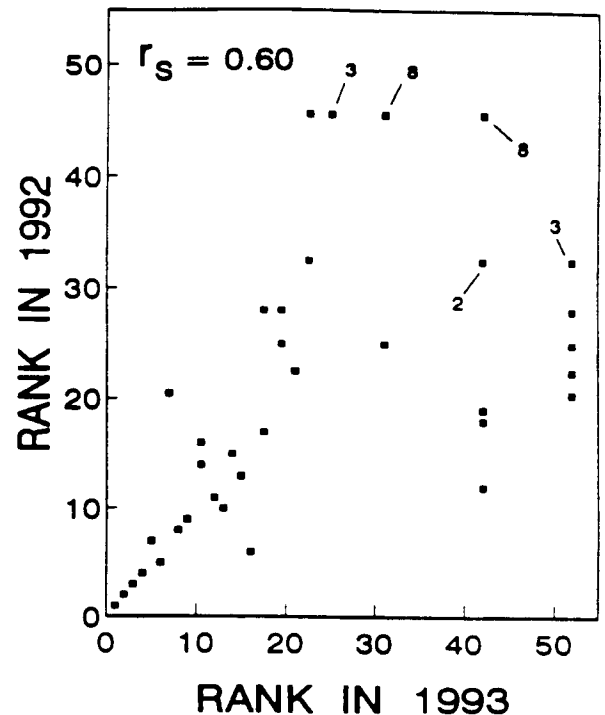


Figure 2.— Relationship (Spearman's correlation coefficient) between rank-order abundance of 55 species observed in 1992 and/or 1993. Numbers within graph represent multiple points.

Bird Community Characteristics

Species Richness, Abundance, and Diversity

Few of the 55 species detected within Ouachita and Ozark survey plots in 1992 and 1993 were common (table 2). Pine warblers (scientific names are listed in table 2) and red-eyed vireos comprised half of all individuals detected within plots; 10 species accounted for 82 percent of the 2,248 individuals counted in 1992 and 1993. The rank-order of abundance of these 55 species was generally stable between years (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient; $r_s = 0.60$, $df = 53$, $P < 0.001$), although abundances of relatively rare species were much less consistent (fig. 2). Hence, when the 29 rarest (ranked higher than median rank) species were removed from the analysis (including those that were recorded in only one year), the relationship became stronger ($r_s = 0.77$, $df = 24$, $P < 0.001$).

Relative abundance was compared between years for each of the 11 species that comprised more than 2 percent of the bird community in 1992-93. When analyzed within regions, only 4 of the 44 comparisons (11 species $\times$ 4 regions) showed significant differences (pine warbler, north; scarlet tanager, south; worm-eating warbler, south and west). Over all 20 sites, only these 3 species showed significant (paired t -tests; $P < 0.05$) between-year variation.

Table 2.— Relative abundances (percentage of total) of bird species recorded within 40-m radius circular plots in 1992 and 1993. Species are arranged according to their rank abundance (in parentheses) in 1992. In cases of ties, average ranks were assigned to species

Common name	Scientific name	Percentage of total (rank)	
		1992	1993
Pine warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	40.1 (1)	35.2 (1)
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	12.9 (2)	11.9 (2)
Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	5.8 (3)	7.2 (3)
Black-and-white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	4.6 (4)	6.9 (4)
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	4.5 (5)	4.5 (6)
Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	4.4 (6)	0.8 (16)
Carolina chickadee	<i>Parus carolinensis</i>	4.1 (7)	4.8 (5)
Tufted titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	3.4 (8)	2.7 (8)
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	2.5 (9)	2.4 (9)
Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	2.1 (10)	1.9 (13)
Pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	1.8 (11)	2.1 (12)
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	1.6 (12)	0.1 (42)
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	1.6 (13)	1.2 (15)
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	1.5 (14)	2.3 (10.5)
Great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	1.4 (15)	1.8 (14)
Indigo bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	1.2 (16)	2.3 (10.5)
Acadian flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virens</i>	1.1 (17)	0.7 (17.5)
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	0.8 (18)	0.1 (42)
Hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	0.7 (19)	0.1 (42)
Worm-eating warbler	<i>Helminthophila vermiculata</i>	0.5 (20.5)	4.2 (7)
Chuck-will's widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	0.5 (20.5)	0.0 (52)
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	0.4 (22.5)	0.5 (21)
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	0.4 (22.5)	0.0 (52)
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	0.3 (25)	0.0 (52)
Red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	0.3 (25)	0.2 (31)
Wood thrush	<i>Hylocichla ustulata</i>	0.3 (25)	0.6 (19.5)
Downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	0.2 (28)	0.7 (17.5)
Eastern wood-pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	0.2 (28)	0.0 (52)
Kentucky warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	0.2 (28)	0.6 (19.5)
Barred owl	<i>Sirix varia</i>	0.1 (32.5)	0.1 (42)
Northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	0.1 (32.5)	0.0 (52)
Gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	0.1 (32.5)	0.1 (42)
Prairie warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	0.1 (32.5)	0.0 (52)
Rufous-sided towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	0.1 (32.5)	0.0 (52)
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	0.1 (32.5)	0.4 (22.5)
Broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Great-horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
Northern bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
American goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
Black-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
Brown-headed nuthatch	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.3 (25)
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.4 (22.5)
Hooded warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Louisiana waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Northern parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.2 (31)
Swainson's warbler	<i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.3 (25)
Cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.3 (25)
Red-headed woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
White-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
Yellow-throated warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	0.0 (45.5)	0.1 (42)
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	+	+
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	+	+
Belted kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	-	+
Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	-	+

* Detected on sites, but only outside of bird survey plots.

† Not detected on sites in 1992.

Thirty-seven percent more species were recorded within plots in 1993 (S_p [Total] = 48) than in 1992 (S_p [Total] = 35). On average, the number of species recorded within survey plots per site in 1993 (mean S_p = 13.40, SD = 3.07, N = 20) exceeded that of 1992 (mean S_p = 12.35, SD = 2.41) by one, but this difference was not significant (paired t -test; t = 1.60, P = 0.12). Likewise, when all species detected on sites were considered (i.e., both within and beyond survey plot boundaries), more species were documented in 1993 (S_p [Total] = 57) than in 1992 (41). On average, approximately 4 more species were recorded on each site in 1993 (mean S_p = 22.70, SD = 2.96, N = 20) than in 1992 (mean S_p = 18.10, SD = 2.99; paired t -test, t = 8.93, P < 0.001). In contrast to species richness, relative abundance of birds within survey plots was significantly greater (t = 3.54, P = 0.002) in 1992 (number of individuals per survey point; mean = 3.63, SD = 0.56, N = 20) than in 1993 (mean = 3.04, SD = 0.63). Species diversity (H') at the site level averaged 1.92 (SD = 0.28) in 1992 and 2.04 (0.35) in 1993 (paired t -test; t = 1.66, df = 18, P = 0.11). (Annual differences in bird species richness, abundance, and diversity were corroborated with ANOVA – see Methods).

Discrepancies in bird community metrics between years could reflect either real differences in bird community characteristics or interobserver variation. Some insight into these alternatives can be obtained by comparing results of the only observer to survey birds in both 1992 and 1993 (Taulman). The number of individuals per survey point declined 16 percent between years for both the overall results (see above) and when analyses were restricted to the single observer, although the latter difference was not significant (paired t -test; t = 1.67, P = 0.11). Species richness also did not differ between years at either the plot or site level for the single observer (S_p , t = 0.91, P = 0.37; S_s , t = 1.23, P = 0.23). These results suggest that, although bird abundance may have been lower in 1993 compared with 1992, observer variation was partly responsible for the recorded differences in species richness during that same period.

Nesting and Foraging Guilds

Canopy nesters comprised approximately two-thirds of the individuals recorded in both 1992 and 1993. The high densities of two canopy-nesters, pine warbler and red-eyed vireo, accounted largely for that domination (fig. 3a). At the species level, canopy-nesters still were the best represented nesting guild, but cavity-, shrub-, and ground-nesters also contributed substantially to species richness (fig. 3b). Shrub-nesters represented approximately 18 percent of the species detected but only 3 percent of the individuals. Representation of nesting guilds within the community did not vary significantly between years (log-likelihood ratio test; G = 0.72, df = 4, P = 0.95).

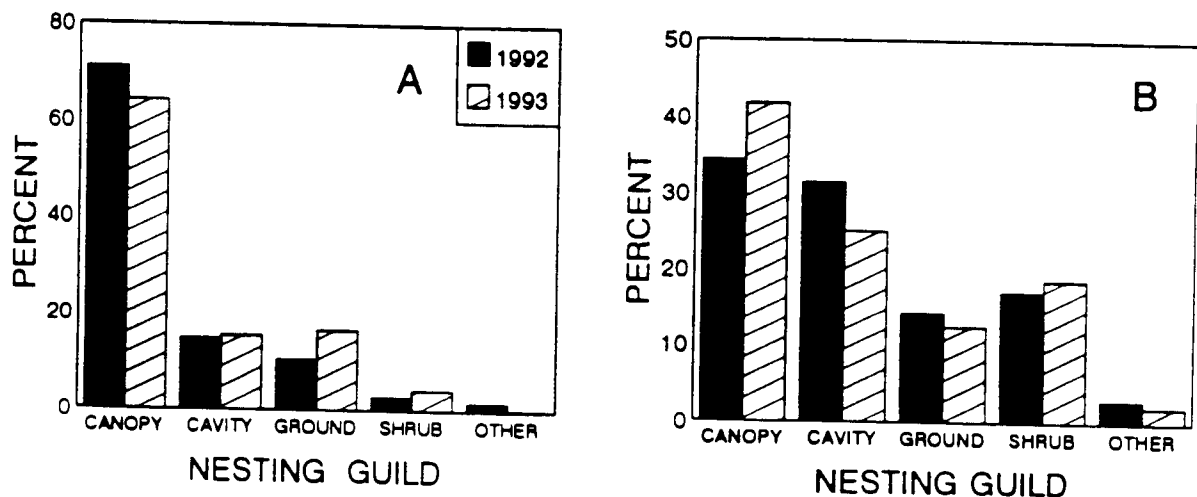


Figure 3. – Representation of different nesting guilds on late-rotation pine-hardwood sites in 1992 and 1993. Bars represent the percentage of (A) individuals and (B) species that comprised each of the five guilds. Nesting guilds are open-cup, canopy (CANOPY); tree cavity (CAVITY); ground; open-cup, shrub layer (SHRUB); and other.

Canopy foliage-gleaning insectivores, of which pine warblers and red-eyed vireos were the most abundant, accounted for approximately two-thirds of the individuals detected, but only one-fourth of the species (fig. 4a). No other foraging guild comprised more than 11 percent of the individuals detected in either year. When species were equally weighted (i.e., no measure of abundance), however, bark-, ground-, and shrub-foraging insectivores, in addition to canopy foragers, were comparable in their representation (fig. 4b). Carnivores were represented by 3 percent and 10 percent of the species in 1992 and 1993, respectively, although less than 1 percent of the individuals detected each year were raptors. Granivorous and nectarivorous species were scarce on Ecosystem Management sites. No significant shifts occurred between years in the relative structure of trophic guilds ($G = 3.69$, $df = 6$, $P = 0.72$).

Differences Among Geographic Zones

No significant differences existed in bird species richness (S_p , [1992]: $F = 0.77$; $df = 3, 12$; $P = 0.53$; S_p , [1993]: $F = 0.95$, $P = 0.45$; S_s , [1992]: $F = 0.45$, $P = 0.72$; S_s , [1993]: $F = 2.13$, $P = 0.15$), relative abundance (1992: $F = 0.10$, $P = 0.96$; 1993: $F = 3.31$, $P = 0.06$), or species diversity (1992: $F = 1.03$, $P = 0.41$; 1993: $F = 0.62$, $P = 0.62$) among the four geographic zones in either year (fig. 5).

Differences Among Future Treatments

No significant differences were detected in bird species richness (S_p , [1992]: $F = 0.18$; $df = 3, 12$; $P = 0.94$; S_p , [1993]: $F = 0.16$, $P = 0.96$; S_s , [1992]: $F = 0.83$, $P = 0.53$; S_s , [1993]: $F = 1.26$, $P = 0.34$), relative abundance (1992: $F = 0.21$, $P = 0.93$; 1993: $F = 1.43$, $P = 0.28$), or species diversity (1992: $F = 0.17$, $P = 0.95$; 1993: $F = 0.49$, $P = 0.75$) among the five future harvesting treatments in either year (fig. 6).

Similarity to Other Southeastern Forest Types

The overall bird community (terrestrial landbirds only) recorded on Ecosystem Management Research sites was compared to bird communities from 12 other studies conducted within pine and mixed pine-hardwood forests of the Southeast. In general, similarity indices (SI) were relatively low (mean = 55 percent, range = 36 to 78 percent) and showed no clear relationship with forest type, number of sites sampled, or geographic proximity to the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests (table 3). However, SI was highly correlated with total number of bird species recorded in each of the studies ($r = 0.87$, $P < 0.01$).

Analysis of "potential" similarity in bird communities using Hamel's (1992) data showed that the pool of species in mixed pine-hardwood forests in the Southeastern United States was most similar to those of loblolly-shortleaf (SI = 78 percent) and oak-hickory (SI = 85 percent) forest types. Bird communities in forests dominated by slash, Virginia, pitch, and/or longleaf pines showed less similarity (mean = 62 percent, range = 57 to 67 percent, $N = 4$) to communities occupying mixed pine-hardwood forests, the pine component of which is usually loblolly or shortleaf. Percent similarity was significantly correlated with the hypothetical number of species occurring in each of the six forest types ($r = 0.89$, $P < 0.01$). Furthermore, the ratio of SI to SI_{max} (the maximum value possible given the number of species occurring in each of two forest types) ranged between 0.85 and 0.98 for the six forest types, suggesting that the less speciose bird communities (all but oak-hickory) were nearly perfect subsets of that found in mixed-pine hardwood forests, and that the mixed pine-hardwood bird community was a subset of the oak-hickory bird community.

Nesting and foraging guild composition of the Ecosystem Management sites in the Ouachitas and Ozarks was comparable to that of other sites and forest types in the Southeastern United States, but only when species were equally weighted (fig. 7). When species were weighted by relative abundance, canopy insectivores and canopy nesters clearly dominated the guild structure on the Ouachita/Ozark sites (see figs. 3 and 4), whereas guild representation did not change appreciably in the other areas.

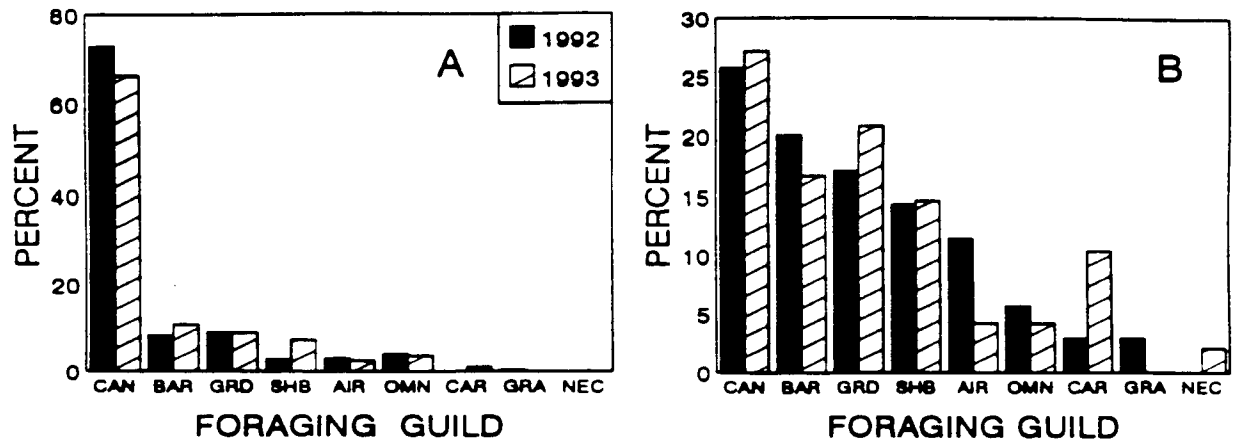


Figure 4.— Representation of different foraging guilds on late-rotation pine-hardwood sites in 1992 and 1993. Bars represent the percentage of (A) individuals and (B) species that comprised each of the nine guilds. Foraging guilds are foliage-gleaning insectivore, canopy (CAN); bark insectivore (BAR); ground insectivore (GRD); foliage-gleaning insectivore, shrub layer (SHB); aerial insectivore (AIR); omnivore (OMN); carnivore (CAR); granivore (GRA); and nectarivore (NEC).

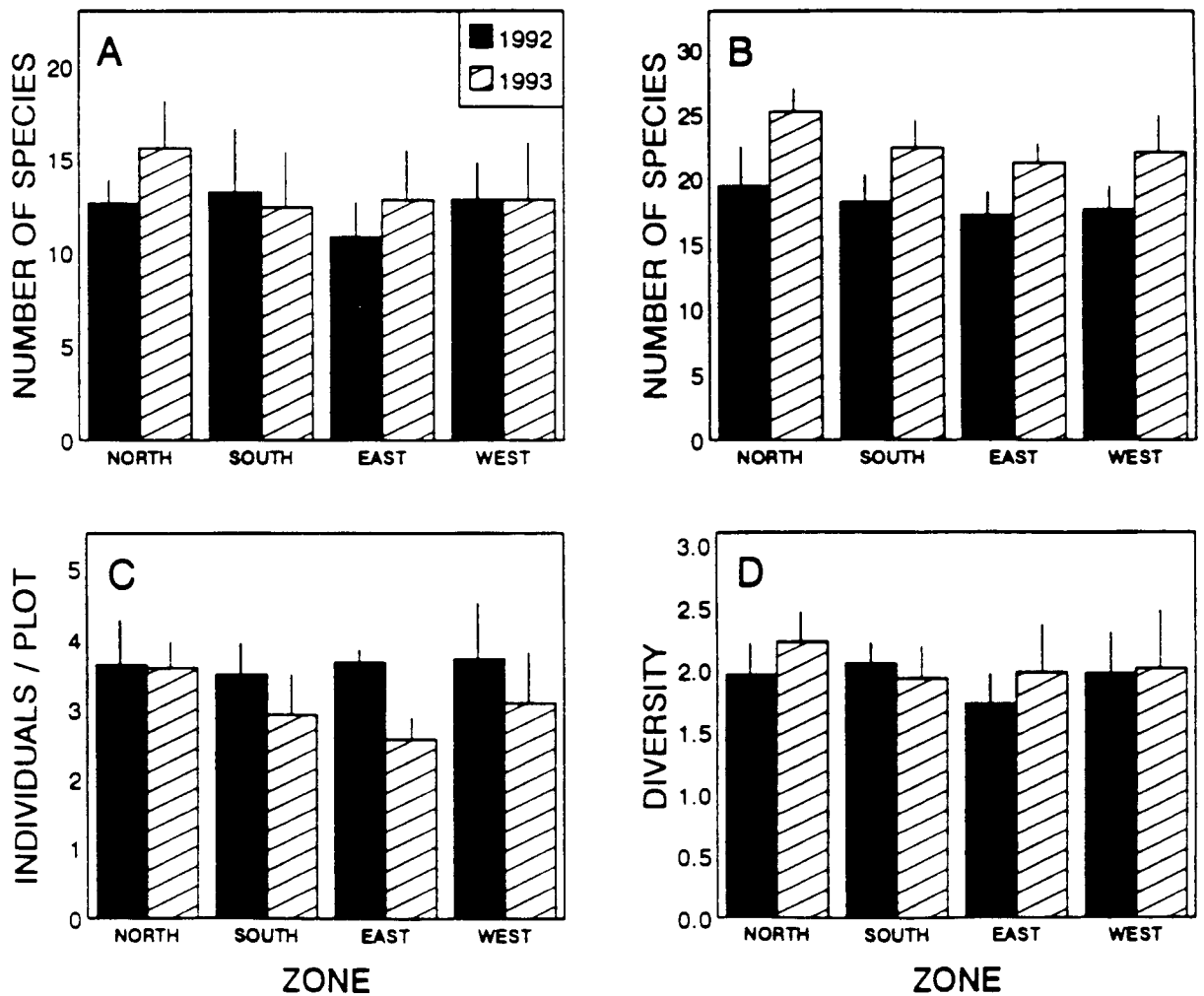


Figure 5.— Comparison of bird community metrics across different geographic zones in late-rotation pine-hardwood stands in 1992 and 1993. Bars represent the mean value (vertical lines equal 1 SD) across five sites for (A) species richness within bird survey plots, (B) species richness entire site, (C) number of individuals detected per 40-m radius plot per survey, and (D) Shannon-Weiner diversity index (H').

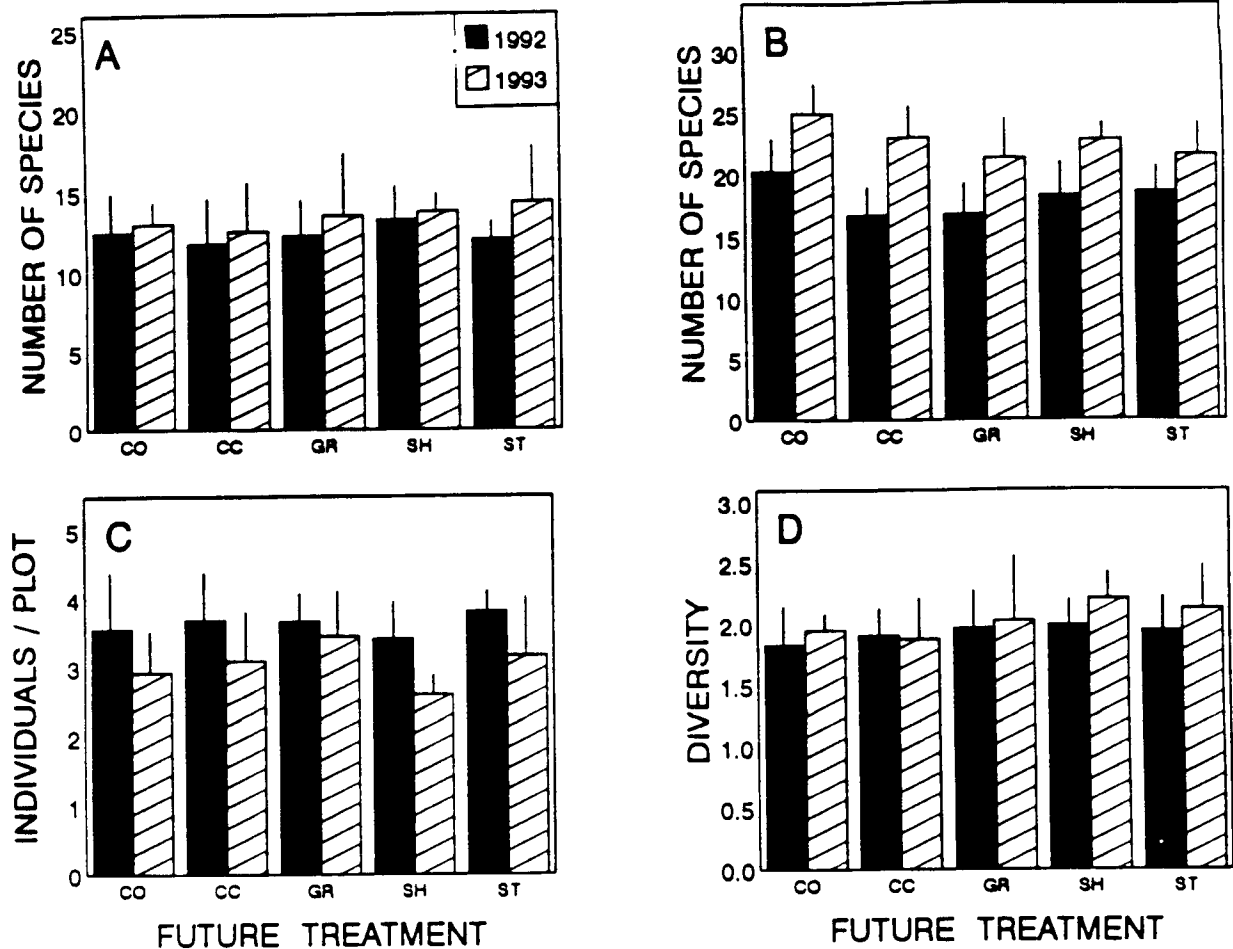


Figure 6.— Comparison of bird community metrics on late-rotation pine-hardwoods stands that will be subjected to different silvicultural treatments. Bars represent the mean value (± 1 SD) across five sites for (A) species richness within bird survey plots, (B) species richness on entire site, (C) number of individuals detected per 40-m radius plot per survey, and (D) Shannon-Weiner diversity index (H'). CO = control, CC = clearcut, GR = group selection, SH = shelterwood, and ST = single-tree selection.

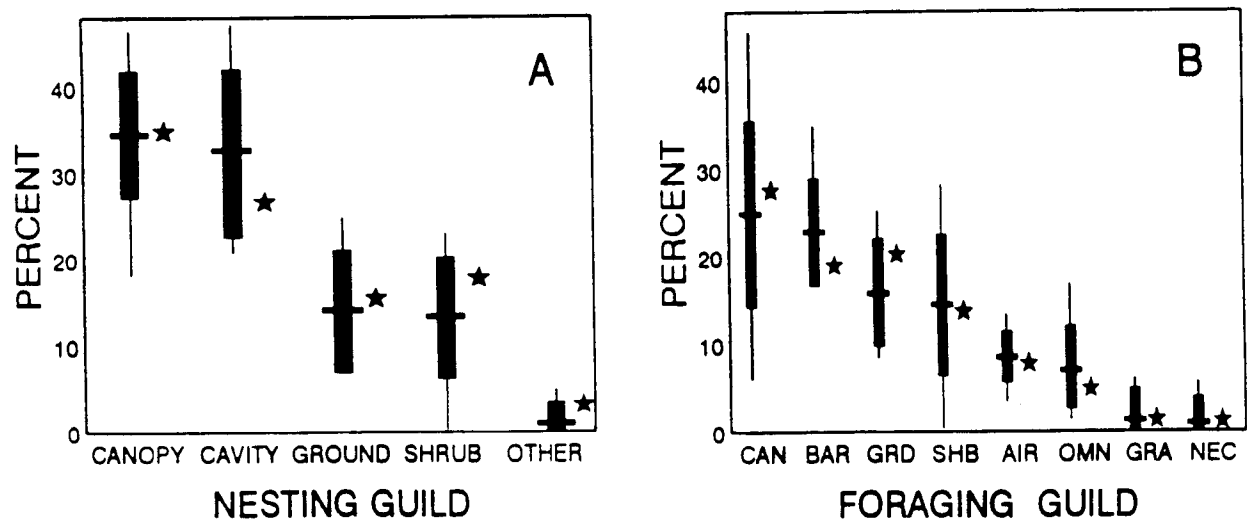


Figure 7.— Comparison of the distribution of different avian (A) nesting and (B) foraging guilds in mature pine-hardwood stands in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests (stars) and pine forests in other locations in the Southeastern United States. Figures are based upon the number of species comprising each guild. Horizontal bars represent the mean value calculated from 12 different studies (table 3), thick bars equal ± 1 SD, and thin vertical lines represent the range of values. Nesting guilds are open-cup, canopy (CANOPY); tree cavity (CAVITY); ground; open-cup, shrub layer (SHRUB); and other. Foraging guilds are foliage-gleaning insectivore, canopy (CAN); bark insectivore (BAR); ground insectivore (GRD); foliage-gleaning insectivore, shrub layer (SHB); aerial insectivore (AIR); omnivore (OMN); granivore (GRA); and nectarivore (NEC).

Table 3.— *Sorensen's Index (SI) of bird community similarity between late-rotation, pine-hardwood stands in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests and other pine-associated forest types and areas in the Southeastern United States*

Forest type	Location	Number of sites	SI	Author
Longleaf-slash pine	Multiple States	3	36	Dickson and others 1980
Longleaf pine	Florida	3	39	Repenning and Labisky 1985
Slash pine	Florida	3	39	Repenning and Labisky 1985
Loblolly pine	Virginia	3	48	Childers and others 1986
Loblolly pine	Louisiana	1	53	Noble and Hamilton 1975
Loblolly-shortleaf pine	Texas	1	53	Dickson and Segelquist 1979
Mixed pine-hardwood	Texas	1	53	Dickson and Segelquist 1979
Pitch pine	New Jersey	6	53	Kerlinger 1983
Pitch pine-oak	Virginia	1	65	Conner and others 1979
Mixed pine-hardwood	Louisiana	1	73	Noble and Hamilton 1975
Loblolly-shortleaf pine	Multiple States	ca 5	75	Dickson and others 1980
Mixed pine-hardwood	Multiple States	4	78	Dickson and others 1980

DISCUSSION

Fixed-radius point counts appeared to be an appropriate means for estimating relative bird abundance in mature pine-hardwood forests. Three visits to each site were probably sufficient to detect nearly all species that would be recorded within survey plots with a moderate increase in effort (perhaps, five visits), because in all 3 years detection of new species slowed dramatically after the second visit (fig. 1). Similarly, Twedt and others (1993) conducted unlimited-distance point counts in Mississippi Alluvial Plain forests and found that the number of species recorded after four visits did not differ significantly from the number detected after five visits. In the Ouachita and Ozarks, however, 30 to 40 percent of the total number of species recorded on a site were not detected within survey plots. Thus, by restricting survey plots to 0.5 ha, relative abundances of many species that occurred on each site were underestimated. Those species that were not detected within plots were extremely rare (each species comprised < 1 percent of the total individuals), often being detected on only one occasion. This rarity is evident in that, over three visits, rate of accumulation of species on the entire site (S_j) closely paralleled that found for species detected only within survey plots. Because these unlimited-distance counts covered a much larger area than the 40-m fixed-radius survey plots, a more rapid rate of species accumulation should have been exhibited if most species were at least moderately common (and detectable). Unlimited-distance counts, as used in this study, will improve estimates of species richness compared to fixed-radius plots, although estimates of relative abundance may be more tenuous. Therefore, to maximize the information gained from general bird surveys in forests, wildlife biologists should incorporate both fixed-radius and unlimited-radius methods into survey protocols (Petit and others, in press).

The ramifications of underestimation of rare species are probably not significant in the scope of this research. Difficulty in quantifying abundance of rare species is common to all bird survey techniques (Ralph and Scott 1981). Furthermore, underestimation of abundance of rare species within fixed-radius plots should not hinder assessment of Ecosystem Management harvesting treatments, particularly if those rare species become more abundant after treatments are applied because of changes in successional stage or vegetative structure. In addition, although all species were not detected by the fixed-radius bird sampling technique, limited resources necessitated examination of relative differences among treatments. Thus, harvesting treatments that result in increases in abundance of species should be (statistically) detectable even though some of those species were underestimated during pretreatment surveys. In addition, several of those rare species (e.g., owls, hawks, and some woodpeckers) characteristically occupy large (> 10 ha) breeding territories, such that any survey technique focussed on stand-level populations would detect relatively few individuals. For those species, the effects of harvesting and management practices on breeding ecology might be most effectively assessed during the watershed-level manipulations of Phase III Ecosystem Management Research.

Not surprisingly, pine warblers were the most abundant bird species occupying mature mixed pine-hardwood stands of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Pine warblers reach their greatest densities in pine and mixed-pine forests of the Southeastern United States including the Ozark-Ouachita physiographic stratum (Hamel 1992, Robbins and others 1986). Although high relative abundances of breeding pine warblers have been reported by others (e.g., 30 percent of all individuals [Land and others 1989], 18 percent [Noble and Hamilton 1975], 14 percent [Conner and others 1979], 13 percent [Dickson and Segelquist 1979], and 10 percent [Kerlinger 1983]), our results suggest that pine warblers may comprise one-third or more of the total individuals in mature pine-hardwood forests in the Ozark and Ouachita plateaus. Caution must be used in interpreting our measure of abundance, however, because our survey technique does not fully account for variation in detectabilities among species. Nevertheless, such domination by a single species indicates that estimates of overall densities of birds in these pine-hardwood forests may be primarily influenced by the abundance of pine warblers. Summaries of bird population data from pine-hardwood stands may need to be more detailed than simple measures of overall density and richness, because numerical domination by one or a few species could cause those quantitative measures to be misleading. Rather, inferences about the bird community as a whole need to consider such characteristics as sex ratios, reproductive output, and the distribution of individuals and species among ecological guilds.

Red-eyed vireo was the only other species to comprise more than 10 percent of the individuals. Based on breeding densities, pine-hardwood forests apparently are not optimal habitats for red-eyed vireos (e.g., Hamel 1992), but they will occupy a wide range of pine-associated habitats depending on the extent of deciduous canopy and understory trees (Hamel 1992). Local population densities of pine warblers and red-eyed vireos apparently are correlated to similar habitat features, but in opposite ways. Pine warblers respond positively to increased pine composition, whereas red-eyed vireos would decline under those conditions (Hamel 1992, Johnston and Odum 1956). Hence, the mixed-tree species composition found on the Ouachita and Ozark stands allowed both species to persist in relatively high numbers.

Individuals that build open-cup nests in the canopy contributed most to guild membership largely because of the abundance of pine warblers and red-eyed vireos. At the species level, nesting guilds were much more evenly distributed. A similar pattern was revealed for foraging/trophic guilds; that is, canopy insectivores, such as red-eyed vireos and pine warblers, comprised the majority of individuals detected. Discounting relative abundance, species that forage from bark, canopy foliage, shrub foliage, and the ground were well represented. These results suggest that management or harvesting methods that alter basal area, leaf litter characteristics, or foliage density at canopy/subcanopy or shrub levels may have negative repercussions on many forest species that require those resources for nesting and foraging (see L. J. Petit and others, this volume).

Comparison of bird community composition of mixed pine-hardwoods in the Ouachita Mountains with other pine-associated forests throughout the Southeastern United States suggests that application of results from Ecosystem Management Research in Arkansas and Oklahoma may not be highly useful in predicting community-level responses in other National Forests in the region. This was not surprising given differences in species ranges and abundances across the Southeast. Yet, even representation of foraging and nesting guilds varied substantially among sites and forest types (although Ouachita/Ozark sites were closely aligned with general trends throughout the region). In addition, Ecosystem Management Research described in this paper incorporated only a portion of the microclimatic and vegetative variability found in pine-hardwood stands in this region because only south-facing aspects were considered. These restrictions, although necessary in this highly controlled experiment, may further hinder generalizations to other areas within the Southeastern United States.

Based upon Hamel's (1992) compilation of potential bird communities, USDA Ecosystem Management Research in Arkansas and Oklahoma should be most applicable to loblolly-shortleaf and oak-hickory forest types in the Southeast region. Nevertheless, predicting bird community- or guild-level responses to harvesting treatments still may be difficult in many locations, or for some foraging and nesting guilds. That uncertainty could create a dilemma for forest managers. For example, forest managers often attempt to maintain or enhance local diversity of species on lands under their jurisdiction (Thomas and Salwasser 1989). If the current Ouachita Ecosystem Management Research suggests that a certain timber harvesting treatment should be applied to increase diversity, should that recommendation be followed even though bird species composition in the two areas are not highly similar? Thus, caution must be used when applying Ecosystem Management Research results to predict changes in species diversity or richness at other sites.

However, community-wide predictions in other areas still may be possible because nearly all species found in Southeastern pine forests also were recorded in the Ouachita Mountains. Similarities between the bird communities in mixed pine-hardwood forest and the other six major forest types (Hamel 1992) were positively correlated with species richness in the latter group. This indicates that the bird communities in the five types of pine forest were subsets of the bird community characteristic of mixed pine-hardwoods, which itself was a subset of that in oak-hickory forest. Thus, although results of this study will be most valuable for predicting bird responses to harvesting treatments on a species-by-species basis, forest managers in other National Forests also may be able to develop community-wide predictions from this Ecosystem Management Research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

D. Petit's participation in this research was partially supported by a grant from the U.S. EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program to T. Martin. J. Adams, H. Powell, and J. Williamson assisted with bird surveys. H. Freerksen, G. Hartman, and V. Weindel of the Ozark National Forest graciously provided technical assistance in location of sites during 1991. K. Petit offered helpful comments on a preliminary draft.

LITERATURE CITED

- Childers, Eddie L.; Sharik, Terry L.; Adkisson, Curtis S. 1986. Effects of loblolly pine plantations on songbird dynamics in the Virginia Piedmont. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 50(3): 406-413.
- Conner, Richard N.; Via, Jerry W.; Prather, Irvine D. 1979. Effects of pine-oak clearcutting on winter and breeding birds in southwestern Virginia. *Wilson Bulletin*. 91(2): 310-316.
- Dickson, James G.; Segelquist, Charles A. 1979. Breeding bird populations in pine and pine-hardwood forests in Texas. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 43(2): 549-555.
- Dickson, James G.; Conner, Richard N.; Williamson, J. Howard. 1980. Relative abundances of breeding birds in forest stands in the Southeast. *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*. 4(2): 174-179.
- Ehrlich, Paul R.; Dobkin, David S.; Wheye, Darryl. 1988. *The birder's handbook: a field guide to the natural history of North American birds*. New York: Simon and Schuster; 785 p.
- Evans, Keith E. 1978. Oak-pine and oak-hickory forest bird communities and management options. In: DeGraaf, Richard M., tech. coord. *Management of southern forests for nongame birds: proceedings of the workshop*. Gen. Tech. Rep. SE-14. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station: 76-89.
- Frissell, Christopher A.; Nawa, Richard K.; Noss, Reed. 1992. Is there any conservation biology in "New Perspectives?": a response to Salwasser. *Conservation Biology*. 6(3): 461-464.
- Hamel, Paul B. 1992. *The land manager's guide to the birds of the South*. Chapel Hill, NC: The Nature Conservancy, Southeastern Region; 437 p.
- Harris, Larry D.; White, L. D.; Johnston, J. E.; Milchunas, D. G. 1974. Impact of forest plantations on north Florida wildlife and habitat. *Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners*. 28: 659-667.
- Jackson, Jerome A. 1988. The southeastern pine forest ecosystem and its birds: past, present, and future. In: Jackson, Jerome A., ed. *Bird Conservation 3*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press: 119-159.
- Johnson, A. Sydney. 1987. Pine plantations as wildlife habitat: a perspective. In: Dickson, James G; Maughan, O. E., eds. *Managing southern forests for wildlife and fish*. Gen. Tech. Rep. SO-65. New Orleans, LA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station: 12-18.
- Johnston, David W.; Odum, Eugene P. 1956. Breeding bird populations in relation to plant succession on the Piedmont of Georgia. *Ecology*. 37(1): 50-62.
- Kerlinger, Paul. 1983. Avian community structure along a successional gradient in the New Jersey pine barrens. *Records of New Jersey Birds*. 9(4): 71-78.
- Knight, H. A. 1987. The pine decline. *Journal of Forestry*. 85(1): 25-28.
- Land, Darrell; Marion, Wayne R.; O'Meara, Timothy E. 1989. Snag availability and cavity nesting birds in slash pine plantations. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 53(4): 1,165-1,171.

- Meyers, Joseph M.; Johnson, A. Sydney. 1978. Bird communities associated with succession and management of loblolly-shortleaf pine forests. In: DeGraaf, Richard M., tech. coord. Management of southern forests for nongame birds: proceedings of the workshop. Gen. Tech. Rep. SE-14. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station: 50-65.
- Mueller-Dombois, D.; Ellenberg, E. 1974. Aims and methods of vegetation ecology. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Neter, John; Wasserman, William. 1974. Applied linear statistical models. Homewood, IL: Richard D. Irwin, Inc (p. 582). 842 p.
- Noble, Robert E.; Hamilton, Robert B. 1975. Bird populations in even-aged loblolly pine forests of southeastern Louisiana. Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners. 29: 441-450.
- Petit, Daniel R.; Petit, Lisa J.; Saab, Victoria A.; Martin, Thomas E. [In press]. Fixed-radius point counts in forests: factors influencing effectiveness and efficiency. In: Ralph, C. John; Sauer, John R.; Droege, Sam, eds. Proceedings of the symposium on monitoring bird population trends by point counts; November 6-7, 1991, Beltsville, Maryland. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-000. Albany, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station.
- Pielou, E. C. 1969. An introduction to mathematical ecology. New York: Wiley-Interscience.
- Ralph, C. John; Scott, J. Michael, eds. 1981. Estimating numbers of terrestrial birds. Studies in Avian Biology. 6: 1-630. Lawrence, KS: Cooper Ornithological Society.
- Repenning, Robert W.; Labisky, Ronald F. 1985. Effects of even-age timber management on bird communities of the longleaf pine forest in northern Florida. Journal of Wildlife Management. 49(4): 1,088-1,098.
- Robbins, Chandler S.; Bystrak, Danny; Geissler, Paul H. 1986. The breeding bird survey: its first fifteen years, 1965-1979. Resour. Publ. 157. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 196 p.
- Salwasser, Hal. 1991. New Perspectives for sustaining diversity in U.S. national forest ecosystems. Conservation Biology. 5(4): 567-569.
- Salwasser, Hal. 1992. From New Perspectives to ecosystem management: response to Frissell et al. and Lawrence and Murphy. Conservation Biology. 6(3): 469-472.
- Smith, Kimberly G.; Petit, Daniel R. 1988. Breeding birds and forestry practices in the Ozarks: past, present, and future relationships. In: Jackson, Jerome A., ed. Bird Conservation 3. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press: 23-49.
- Thomas, Jack Ward; Salwasser, Hal. 1989. Bringing conservation biology into a position of influence in natural resource management. Conservation Biology. 3(1): 123-127.
- Twedt, Daniel J.; Smith, Winston P.; Cooper, Robert J.; Ford, Robert P.; Hamel, Paul B.; Wiedenfeld, David A. 1993. Sampling bird communities in bottomland hardwood forests of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley: number of points visited versus number of visits to a point. In: Smith, Winston P., ed. Proceedings of the 4th meeting of the Southeast Management Working Group, Partners in Flight: abstracts; November 12-14, 1992; Memphis, TN. Gen. Tech. Rep. SO-95. New Orleans, LA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station: 16.